

JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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"THE END OF AN ERA"

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Published quarterly, and dedicated to bringing together people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series within the numismatic community.

— Steve Epstein, Publisher - Barber Coin Collectors' Journal

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THE END OF AN ERA

By Russell Easterbrooks

Early coins had the date, and mint marks punched into each working die by hand. Each figure was punched separately until around 1840, after that two and three figure punches were used. Even four figure punches were tried, which is proven by the 1858 over inverted 1858 half dime. When it came to punching the date, these three and four figure punches must have been very hard to see around, center, and strike.

It appears that early in the Barber dime series, two and three figure punches were used and some issues show a wide range of date positions.

A large number of dies must have been used in 1892, as I have seen many varieties. One of these shows the date struck so far to the left, that if a line were drawn along the back of Miss Liberty's neck, it dissects the figure one. Dates punched far to the right include the 1897, 1901, and 1904. The last figure in these dates touches Miss Liberty's bust, and the whole date is farther from the rim of the coin. The 1900 and 1914 show the date punched very close to the rim, sometimes touching the dentilated border.

Repunched dates, usually the last figure, are sometimes seen. This feature is often seen on the 1908 dimes from all the mints. I recently bought a 1908-S in AU which shows a heavily repunched 8.

In 1908 a new method was used, whereby the date was placed on the hub, which was then used to make the working dies. (Reader's note: See *What Happened at the Mint in 1908?* by Chris Pilliod on page 15 of the Spring 1992 issue.) This meant that with the year change the last figure of the date must be ground off, a new master hub must be made and the correct figure cut in. I cannot confirm that this method was used on Barber dimes; however, the 1911 and 1914 show the last figure slightly larger than the rest of the figures. Also the 1913 shows a nice bend in the date where the first 1 and the 3 are slightly higher than the 9 and 1.

By 1916 the new Mercury design used the method whereby the date was cut into the original model and transferred to the hub.

Why the figures on the 1915 and 1916 Barber dimes are so crude is a mystery. Breen states in his *Encyclopedia* that the numerals for these years are cruder than any previous dates since 1844-46. The 1915 shows the figures very close, where in the 1916 they are spaced apart. Also, the 6 is clearly an inverted 9.

My theory is that each figure was punched separately from single punches left over from the 1840's.

The reason for this may be because no new punches were made, with the Barber design coming to an end, and the fact that the new method of the dated hub would be used with the Mercury design.

With the end of the Barber coinage we have seen the last of the hand punched date, or as I call it, the signature of an engraver.



GENERAL INFO

LITERARY AWARD VOTE

Votes are coming in for the best Journal articles. There are, however, a lot of members that have not yet voted. Please see the rules in the previous (Spring) Journal for information on how to do so.

Winners will be announced during the B.C.C.S. meeting at the A.N.A. show. That means you have until August 4 to send in your vote. Thanks.

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Letters from members are welcome and will be published as space permits. The Publisher reserves the right to edit or omit material in accordance with Society bylaws.

The publication of letters is not necessarily an endorsement by the Society of a particular opinion held by a member. Also, members claiming new discoveries should be willing to permit personal examination of such discoveries by a recognized authority so as to add weight to its validity. Arrangements for such examinations can be made through the Publisher.

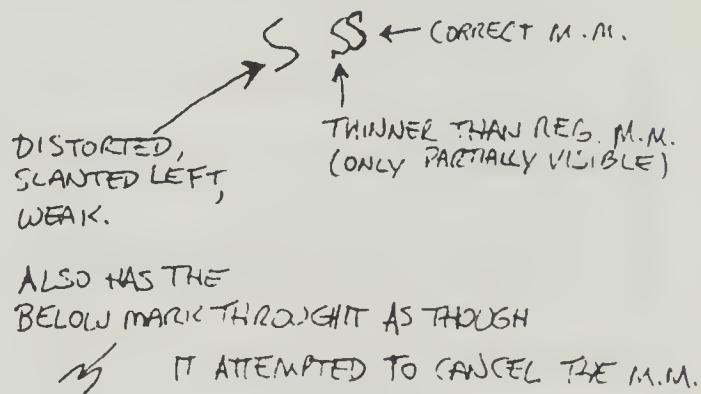
Finally, letter writers will not be identified unless they give permission when submitting their letter, or have given their permission on their membership application.

NEW 1910-S HALF VARIETY DISCOVERED ??!

I would like to report a possible new variety of a 1910-S half dollar. To the left of the correct "S" mintmark, there appears to be two more. (A drawing of this appears to the right.)

The coin is in VG condition. If someone in our club has the ability to photograph/verify this variety, please let me know as this should be of interest to other members.

— *Rich Dula #224
498 Alpine St.
South Amboy, NJ 08879*

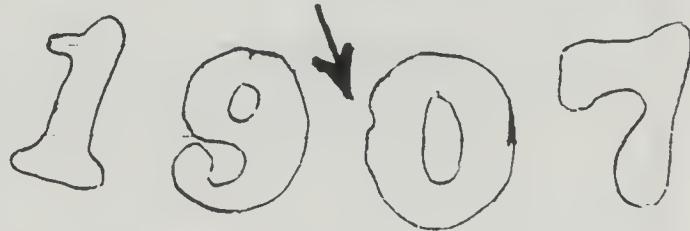


DAMAGED DATE IN ALL 1907 DIMES

I'm writing to you [Steve Epstein, publisher] about an interesting characteristic of 1907 Barber dimes logotype. It appears that all 1907 dimes have a damaged zero in the date (see accompany drawing). Some with greater or lesser degree of a nick. This appears to be attributed to the use of one logotype punch or to the master hub. Our club

Journal is excellent. Keep up the good work.

— *Karl Schuppenhauer*



A WORD FROM OUR NEW CONTRIBUTING EDITOR...

The Barber Coin Collectors' Society has come a long way in a short time and it has given every Barber collector the chance to join or learn from one another. As a new contributing editor, I look forward to turning my research into articles we can all

learn from. Our award-winning Journal is a tribute to every Barber collector, and we all owe Steve a very special Thank You.

— *Russell Easterbrooks, CM#217*

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BARBER DIME DIE CRACKS

by Scott Brockelman

Following up on Paul Reuter's article on Barber quarter die cracks from the Spring 1992 issue, I took out my own Barber dime set for inspection. In taking the time to look for die cracks I examined over 70 Barber dimes mostly AU-MS; however, some dates and mints I have are only XF. I have collected Barber coinage 5 years and I am always looking for nice coins along with interesting varieties.

What follows is a brief description of Barber dimes which exhibit large die cracks, die clashes, etc. Only the most obvious ones are included, although I found several lightly cracked through the truncation of bust.

1892 – Die chip 2 to bust, common, but large amount of extra metal below tip of bust, along with most heavily clashed obverse die I have seen. Also large blob of extra metal on reverse corn ear and below right ribbon. Must have been very late state of dies.

1893 – Heavy crack obverse top of "UNITED STATES".

1896 – Obverse crack runs top of complete legend very heavy top of "OF".

Slightly broadstruck with railroad rim.

1898 – Spiked chin variety with obverse crack rim through "E" of "STATES" to cap.

1898 – Reverse two blobs extra metal on corn ear and below right ribbon.

1899-O – Heavily clashed dies.

1901-O – Clash dies obverse crack base of 2nd "1" through tip of bust to last "A" in "AMERICA".

1902-O – Light cracks behind neck and front of neck.

1906-D – Obverse crack 6 to tip of bust to rim. Reverse cracks wheelspoke style K2, K4, K6, K8, K9 and K11; die actually shifting between K9 and K11.

In general, New Orleans mints seem to come with clashed dies much more often than other mints. Denver mints seem to often come weakly struck like their southern counterparts.

I also have two of the so called 1909-O/D dimes as mentioned in the last journal by Jon Potts, one of which exhibits a cracked reverse die from the left maple leaf to rim. My coins are the same as the Lovejoy coin which I examined. Does anyone besides myself and Jon Potts have this variety to discuss, study, etc.?

I recently saw a 1893-P struck on a scrap or undersized planchet, lacked rims and most reverse detail with weak obverse detail. The coin had reeding added later or I probably would have purchased it.

I also saw an 1893 quarter with an obverse rim break and retained cud K4 to K6.

Next issue I plan to write about Barber quarters and dimes which ones are scarce and which ones are not. The results of my 5 years of observations at coin shows, mail bids and auctions might shock you. In the meantime I welcome all correspondence, at P.O. Box 2114, Hurst, TX 76053.



TREASURY REPORT

3 MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 1992

Opening Balance	Jan. 1, 1992	\$ 83.16
Receipts		
	Dues	\$ 4,348.00
	Advertising	600.00
	Back-issue Sales	114.00
	Comm. Medal Sales	594.00
	Misc.	17.45
	Total	<u>5,673.45</u>
Funds Available		<u>\$ 5,756.61</u>
Expenditures		
	Journal Printing	
	& Postage	\$ 2,514.46
	Other Postage	147.51
	Misc. Printing	160.00
	Commem. Mailing	64.44
	Bank Charges	<u>2.82</u>
	Total	<u>\$ 2,889.23</u>
Closing Balance	March 31, 1992	<u>\$ 2,867.38</u>

*Paul Reuter,
Treasurer*

Treasurer Note: Society holds approx. \$1,700.00 worth of commemoratives at bullion value.

MEETING INFO

BCCS TO MEET AT SUMMER ANA

Orlando here we come! BCCS will be out in full force with a club booth throughout the Show (August 12-16), and a general meeting to be held Saturday, August 15, at 8:30 am in Room 12c of the Convention Center.

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BUY WITH YOUR HEAD

by Steve Epstein

I recently glanced at our society by-laws and was again vividly reminded that we are more than a forum for sharing knowledge about Barbers, but are also a group of people dedicated to sustaining the hobby for future generations. This, of course, requires we continually add to our ranks. Whether it be the young collector, or those first turning to the hobby as adults, there needs to be a steady growth in demand for those little metal discs on which a noticeable share of our hard-working money is spent.

It was the age of telemarketing that created the demand for coins by so many investors in recent years. It was also the lack of regulation of the coin industry among other things that demonstrated how fragile that demand could be. When the smoke cleared at the end of the cycle that saw prices rise dramatically and then fall sharply, the collector remained. The collector survived because, although coins are an investment for them too, but they are also a passion. As such, collectors dedicate much of their time to gaining knowledge about coins and hopefully, wisdom about their purchases and sales.

This article is about wisdom. For although I'm in the hobby like most of our society members for the passion of collecting, I've tried hard over the years to practice wisdom. Wisdom can be elusive when you've just found the one coin you need to fill that key hole in your album but you're apprehensive about its condition. It may have some "problems" on its surfaces, and you're not sure it's fairly priced. You may even feel it's accurately graded and fairly priced, but you're not sure the value will hold over time. And there's concern another one may not be located again for a long while. What do you do? Do you make your buying decision with your heart or your head?

I've run into too many former collectors who bought with their heart once too often and, as much as they enjoyed collecting, could no longer afford the hobby. It's those folks, and others who've never collected but bought VF common date Morgan dollars from a newspaper for \$39.95 each, whose potential participation in the hobby is lost forever. For those that continue to follow the hobby, I have a few pieces of wisdom that have helped me avoid the pain of paying too much for a coin or selling for too little. Unfortunately for me some of my advice was learned from painful experience. Here's what I do:

1. I have specific collecting goals that help me minimize making unnecessary purchases. In my case, I've narrowed my interests to a few better date Barbers in certain grades, with very specific eye appeal. If it's not on my list, I don't buy it.
2. I avoid overextending myself financially by making sure the fair market value of my collection at any one time does not exceed a fixed percentage of my total net worth. This percentage is determined by the amount of downside

risk in my portfolio as measured by the past price performance and estimated surviving population of each coin in my collection.

3. When I buy a coin I do my best to make sure there is no question about the grade. To do this I will usually buy from a select group of dealers who over time have proven to have an eye for locating the kinds of coins I want and whose coins when sold by me have not had their grades disputed. I've also learned that a "slabbed" coin far from guarantees the grade which may be technically accurate but ugly, or just plain misgraded. My basic rule of thumb is to get a professional second opinion before purchasing a coin, especially if the purchase is from a dealer I've not done business with before. If a dealer should refuse me the opportunity to show the coin to someone I trust, I will not buy the coin. This is obviously easier when purchasing a coin at a show as opposed to purchasing through the mail, but when I do, it's only from a dealer I've done business with before, with the coin sent to me on an approval basis only.
4. When I'm sure about a coin's grade and authenticity (guaranteed by a major grading service or well-established dealer) I validate the asking price by checking *CDN grey sheet*, *Coin World Trends* and *Numismatic News Coin Market*, auction records and other dealer ads. Obviously I have to pre-prepare all this information before I find the coin. My rule of thumb is that for every 5% the asking price exceeds my estimate of the coins' current value, that's an additional year I have to hold it just to break even. Some may find this approach conservative, but it's my money and rare coins are no longer touted on Salomon Brothers list of high performing investments. I may, however, bend that rule a bit if I'm comfortable I'm buying a great coin at the bottom of a bear market. But even if I agree to pay a slightly higher premium, I still have a cap. And as much as I may like a coin and agree with the grade, I will walk if the price is too high, but not before leaving the dealer with what I consider a fair offer.
5. All my coins are stored in inert holders and locked securely away in a bank vault. I may not have the luxury of viewing my coins any time I want but I have the peace of mind of knowing that they'll be there when it's time to sell them, most likely in the same condition in which they were purchased.
6. Whenever I buy a piece, I always have a figure in mind that I'll be able to sell it for at a specific point in the future. Knowing both the cost and time in the future I'd sell recognizes the time value of money. Should it appreciate to the desired value at a particular point in the future, I may or may not choose to sell it, depending on how I feel about further appreciation and my particular need for cash at the time.
7. One thing I always do when I buy a coin is constantly monitor factors that may affect its value. On such factor could be a recent discovery of a horde of potentially similar coins for example. Constantly staying on top of the market for my coins will enable me to "bail out" before the coin should experi-

ence a dramatic decline in value.

- Finally, when I decide its' time to sell and I've set my price, I hold to that price if I feel it's worth it and I'll be able to get my money. I may reduce my price if I can use the cash to purchase another coin with more upside potential than the amount I reduced the coin I had for sale.

All in all, as much as I love coins, I don't hold any coin sacred. My first priority is to my family's financial well being. However, by buying with my head, I can maintain that well being while pursuing the hobby that I hold so dearly.



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COMPARING THE 1892 TYPES I & II BARBER QUARTERS

by Pete Haishun

One of the first things we Barber coin collectors learn about the Barber quarter series is that there were two distinct varieties which appeared in its debut year of 1892. Appropriately, the varieties are known today as "Type I" and "Type II", and they are widely discussed (although mainly in general terms) throughout the existing Barber coin literature.

The only reason I have come across in my research as to why "Type II" replaced "Type I" was that, shortly after the first Barber quarters were released into circulation in early 1892, it was noted that they did not stack well, owing to the fact that Liberty's head on the obverse extended above the rim; that is, her head was actually of higher relief than any other part of the obverse, including the rim.

To remedy the problem, Charles E. Barber, Chief Engraver of the Mint, purportedly modified both the obverse and reverse hubs by increasing the width of the borders inside the rims, with the intention of reducing the diameters of the enclosed designs and legends. He may have felt that wider borders would further set apart the rims from the interior features, thereby accentuating the rims' role of protecting the coin faces. In the case of the obverse, the amount by which Liberty's head relief exceeded the height of the rim would be decreased. Mr. Barber may have also felt that the original reverse design contributed to the stacking problem as well--hence, his modification of the reverse hub (see Section II below).

David W. Lange, in his article in the Summer 1989 BCCS *Journal*, cites a May 1899 article from *The Numismatist*, which described "about a half dozen distinguishing characteristics" between two distinct reverse die varieties found in 1892 Barber quarters. Mr. Lange does not list all these characteristics in his article, so, in light of my curiosity to identify the basic design differences (variations) between a "generic" Barber quarter and a "generic" Barber half dollar (see the Summer 1991 and Fall 1991 BCCS *Journals*), I was similarly curious to see if I could identify as many variations as possible between the 1892 Types I and II Barber quarters, given the die varieties alluded to above, as well as the "challenge" implied by Mr. Lange's article. (I have not read the May 1899 *Numismatist* article he cites.) The following paragraphs present my results. See also Figure 1 for illustrations of the two quarter Types.

I. TYPES I AND II OBVERSES

Using a pocket magnifier, a ruler and a side-by-side "eyeball" comparison of both coins, I was unable to identify any variations between the Types I and II obverses, not even in the width of the border between the rim and the legend, stars and date, despite the obverse hub modifications purported to have been made by Charles E. Barber. David Lawrence was also unsuccessful. Q. David

Bowers, Walter Breen and David W. Lange do not even discuss 1892 Barber quarter obverse variations (see "Sources" listed at the end of this article). Therefore, any obverse variations which do exist must be microscopic, which is well beyond the capabilities of my instruments!

(Note: I compared two 1892-P Barber quarters, which were classified and sold to me as Types I and II on the basis of differences in their reverses. Since it evidently was the Mint's intention to correct the stacking problem by modifying the obverse and reverse hubs at the same time (both of which may or may not have been accomplished), I discounted the possibility that a still later version of the 1892 Type II-reverse quarter was minted with a true, distinctively different, "Type II" obverse.)

II. TYPES I AND II REVERSES

My comparison of the 1892 Types I and II reverses was more successful. Mint officials did in fact increase the width of the border on the reverse. This modification had a corresponding effect on several of the reverse features, which I list and describe below in the approximate order of appearance inward from the rim.

A. Border Between Rim and Legend

Variation 1: The Type II border (the marginal space between the rim and the legend) is slightly wider than the Type I border.

Discussion: I have not been able to detect a difference between the widths of the Types I and II rims. However, the difference in width of the two borders is noticeable to the unaided eye and does not have to be measured precisely. If the rims are in fact equal in width, then the differing width of the borders means that the diameter of the features within the borders (including the legends) differs. As a result, the wider Type II border encloses a reverse design minutely smaller than the design enclosed by the narrower Type I border.

B. Wingtip Positions

Variation 2: The eagle's wingtips cover different parts of the letters in the legend "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA".

Discussion: On the Type I reverse, the left wingtip (on the left side of coin) covers less than half of the E in "UNITED", leaving visible a tiny portion of the E's center branch; on the Type II reverse, the left wingtip covers more of the E, including all of its center branch.

On the Type I reverse, the right wingtip (on the right side of coin) allows part of the center branch of the E in "AMERICA" to show, leaving the adjacent R virtually untouched. On the Type II reverse, the right wingtip covers approximately the same amount of the E, but also covers part of the R's stem.

This is the "traditional" Type I vs. Type II variation discussed in most of the existing Barber quarter literature.

C. Arrows

Variation 3: There are slight differences in the configuration of the arrows grasped by the eagle's claw.

Discussion: The stem of the second-highest arrow is longer on Type I than on Type II. Also on Type I, the tip of the same arrow is nearly even with the base of the head of the highest arrow. These arrows are not as closely positioned on Type II.

There are also minute differences in the lengths of the stems (and corresponding positions of the points) of the third-highest arrow and the arrow closest to the eagle's knee.

D. Stars in Field

Variation 4: The alignment of the stars in the field differs between Types I and II.

Discussion: Following is one interpretation of the alignment of both sets of stars:

Type I:	1	2	3		Type II:	1	2	3	
4	5		6		4	5	6	7	9
		7				10		11	12
	8	9	10	11				13	
12		13							

From this interpretation, we can see that the Type I stars are arranged more haphazardly than the Type II stars, which tend to form three distinct rows. The change to the Type II configuration comes about mainly from movement of the stars surrounding the eagle's head. Specifically, Type I stars 8, 9 and 13 (Type II stars 6, 7 and 11, respectively) were shifted upward and to the right, while Type I star 12 (Type II star 10) was shifted directly upward.

Variation 5: The up-and-down orientation of the stars differs between Types I and II.

Discussion: Using a judgmental "all-up" or "all-down" criterion, the stars' up-and-down orientation may be classified as follows:

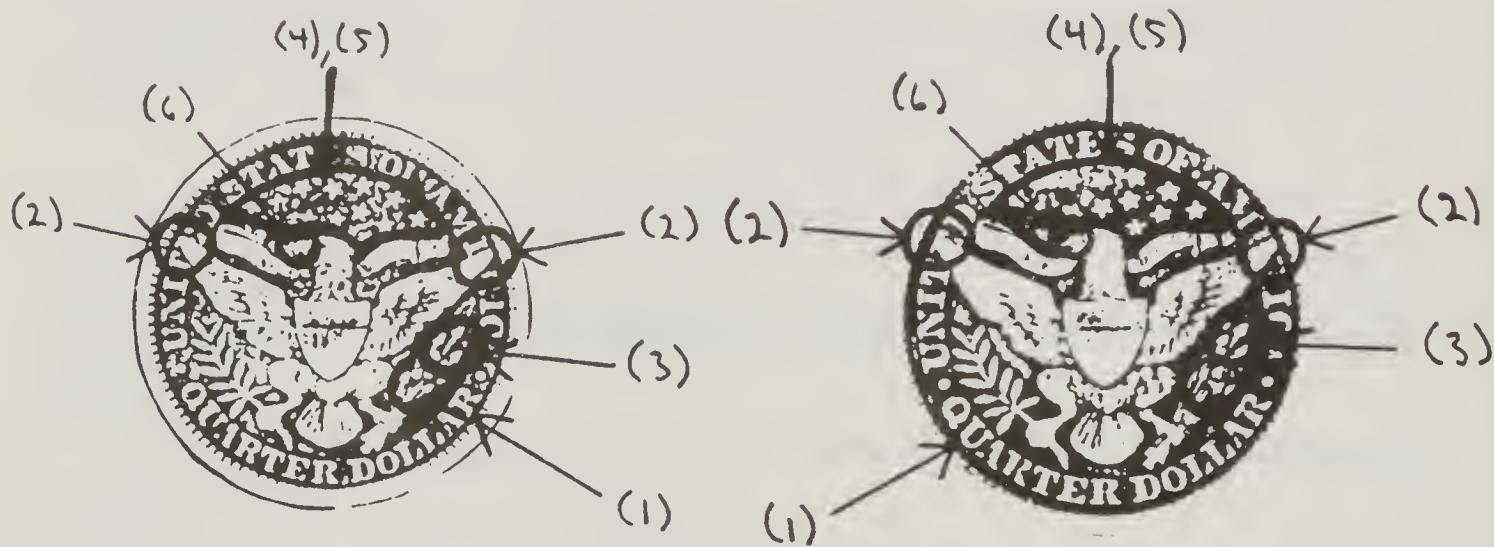
	Right Side Up	Upside Down
Type I:	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 9, 10, 11, 12	1, 2, 13
Type II:	3, 4, 8, 9, 10 11, 12, 13	1, 2, 5, 6, 7



Type I



Type II



The differences in up-and-down orientation from Type I to Type II appear to have been the result of the more orderly alignment of the stars in the Type II field (Variation 4 above). A trade-off in the up-and-down orientation had to be made to accommodate the reduced space between the individual stars in the Type II alignment.

E. Eagle's Beak

Variation 6: The beak of the Type I eagle is prominently hooked (curved), while the beak of the Type II eagle is somewhat straighter in appearance.

Discussion: The curvature of the Type I eagle's beak more nearly resembles the curved beak exhibited by the eagle on the Barber half dollar. In Part 2 of my comparison of the differences between Barber quarters and halves (Fall 1991 *BCCS Journal*), I mentioned that physical differences such as overall size and beak shape distinguish male and female bald eagles. Since the female bald eagle is larger than the male, I concluded that, to my eyes at least, the eagle depicted on the Barber half must be female due to its "robust" appearance, compared to the eagle depicted on the post-Type I Barber quarter. Furthermore, the beak of the Barber half's eagle is comparatively straight.

The fact that the eagle on the Type I Barber quarter has a curved beak leads me to conclude (admittedly using "creative" license) that, at their introduction in

1901-5

1904-5

1907-5

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RABBER HALF DOLLAR POPULATION SURVEY

early 1892, both Barber eagles were intended to be identical and were therefore "robust" females. It follows, then, that to accommodate the requirement for a slightly smaller Type II reverse design (Variation 1 above), Mint officials decided to adopt a smaller (male) bald eagle. If not, what other reason accounts for changing the shape of the eagle's beak, appearing as it does near the center of the coin, which on Type II still has sufficient space to accommodate a curved beak?

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is interesting to note that, although the 1892 Barber quarter's obverse was the alleged cause of the original stacking problem, it was only the reverse which underwent significant enough modification to be noticeable to the unaided eye. Whether obverse or reverse (or both), mint officials decided that the necessary solution to the problem was to widen the border between the rim and the legend and essentially "shrink" the enclosed design. They may have thought this to be a quicker "fix" than changing the relief of Liberty's head. However, in the case of the reverse, they found that they had to deal with an already crowded design. As a result, they also had to revise some of the features in addition to simply "shrinking" them. This is evidenced by the displaced wingtips and arrows, the smaller star field accommodating more orderly rows of more disoriented stars, and, finally, a smaller (male) eagle, complete with streamlined beak!

So it seems strange that they went through all the trouble of modifying the reverse design, yet apparently ended up leaving the relatively uncluttered obverse untouched. Since it is well known that Liberty's head detail on all Barber coins has been particularly susceptible to wear, which is one of the main reasons why Barber coins in the better grades are fairly scarce, I do not believe that the 1892 obverse was revised at all.

Perhaps any BCCS members owning a roll each of mint state 1892 Types I and II quarters would care to compare their stackability and write the Publisher of their findings!

SOURCES

Bowers, Q. David. *United States Dimes, Quarters, and Half Dollars: An Action Guide for the Collector and Investor*. Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc., 1986 (Page 95).

Breen, Walter. *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. F.C.I. Press, Inc. & Doubleday, 1988 (Page 358).

Lange, David W. "Known and Unknown Varieties of Barber Quarters and Halves". *BCCS Journal*, Summer 1989 (Page 13).

Lawrence, David. *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*. DLRC Press, 1989 (Pages 12 and 16).

In this Commemorative Year of Barber's 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, we, in this issue, are departing slightly from our policy to present only articles on the dimes, quarters and halves. In a tribute to the man, information on other Barber coins is provided in articles by Henry Philippson and Bill Cregan.

COLLECTING CHARLES E. BARBER COINS BY TYPE SET

By Henry Philippson

(I would like to thank the owner of Newport Harbor Coins of Costa Mesa, CA, Keith Williamson, for his encouragement and suggestions for these articles.)

In the fall edition of BCCS Quarterly there was an interesting article on collecting Barber by the year, which got me thinking "How about collecting a Barber type set?" This would consist of coins listed in the Red Book that are designed by Charles E. Barber in grade XF unless otherwise stated.

A person could start with the 1883 No Cent Liberty Head or V-nickel for about \$6 to \$7, then the 1883 nickel with cents for about \$30. Next would be the Barber dime of 1892 or whatever date you want from \$16 to \$30, then the Barber Quarter for about \$70 or less and the half dollar which is a little more expensive - from around \$100 to \$125. If the price is too high drop down to a fine or very fine grade. This would complete the coins designed by Barber that were intended to circulate.

Next you can get the 1892 or 1893 Columbian Commemorative half for about \$25. The Isabella Quarter runs about \$200, but it is not a "Killer Coin." Next is the 1900 Lafayette Dollar for about \$200 to \$225 and the 1915 Panama Pacific half dollar, running about \$160. The Panama Pacific Half Dollar is the first commemorative coin to bear the motto "In God We Trust." This would take care of the silver commemorative coinage of Barber. Barber designed the obverse of the 1892 and 1893 Columbia Half Dollar. He designed both the obverse and the reverse of all the other commemoratives mentioned.

Next in line you would start with the gold commemoratives. You could begin with the 1903 Louisiana Territory Purchase coins, one for Thomas Jefferson and one for President McKinley. These \$1 gold pieces run about \$325. These would be followed by a 1904 or 1905 Lewis & Clark Exposition \$1 gold piece which would run about \$450. The Panama Pacific Exposition \$2 1/2 dollar gold piece is expensive - about \$900. Barber designed the obverse of this \$2 1/2 gold piece. A 1916 or 1917 McKinley Memorial \$1 gold piece runs about \$300 to \$325.

For those who wish to continue, there is the Hawaiian silver coinage designed by Barber in 1883. There are 5 silver coins in the series. The 1883 dime in VF costs about \$35. The quarter in VF costs about \$30, the half dollar in VF

runs about \$70 and the dollar around \$200 in VF. The last piece in the Hawaiian coinage is a piece called "an eighth of a dollar" or 12½ cents in silver. Only 20 pieces were minted of this proof-only issue.

In 1903 all Hawaiian coinage was recalled by the United States Government and on January 1, 1904 the Hawaiian coinage was demonetized so these coins are no longer legal tender coins. Here are the mintage figures: the dime 250,000 minted, 79 were redeemed; the quarter, 500,000 minted, 257,400 redeemed; the half dollar 700,000 were minted, 612,245 redeemed; the dollar, 500,000 minted, 453,652 were redeemed. Only 26 proofs of each denomination were made. There is one variety in the quarter series in which there is a "3" inside the first 8 in the date. It is believed to be a defective punch die. No mintage is available for this variety.

Now, for the members who have very deep pockets there are a couple more for you to seek. The 1879 or 1880 \$4 gold Stellas were pattern issues which did not circulate. Barber designed the obverse of the flowing hair type and the reverse of both the flowing and coiled hair types.

Barber could be called the "Father of Commemorative Coinage." I think this would make an interesting collection of Barber coinage. There are 11 silver, 5 gold and 2 in nickel. All of these coins can be found at your coin dealers, or major coin shows, except for the silver Hawaiian eighth of a dollar which was minted in proof only and the 2 gold \$4 Stellas.

Have some fun and good hunting.



THE LIBERTY HEAD NICKEL

By Bill Cregan

Many collectors will agree that the Liberty Head nickel is the most attractive and original coinage design created by Charles E. Barber. The coin is an inspirational example of his artistic imagination and engraving expertise.

Barber prepared a pattern nickel design in 1882 which was officially adopted as the Liberty Head nickel in 1883. The new nickels were initially issued without the word cents on the reverse, and confused the public. Later in the year the word "cents" was added so there are two distinct varieties of Liberty Head nickels for 1883.

The Liberty Head nickel was issued in fairly large quantities in its time to serve the needs of commerce. Availability of these coins today depends upon condition, and nice circulated examples are collector's items. The series is not hampered from completion by any rare dates, so even a Barber specialist of modest means can complete a nice collection.

There are, however, many interesting and significant dates in the series. One of my favorite issues is the 1894.

When I contemplate this date I don't think of the idyllic *Gay Nineties*, but of hard times for millions of Americans punctuated by Coxey's March, industrial and bank failures, and the vicious Pullman railway car strike.

Contrasted with Barber's silver coinage series, his nickels were much more familiar to the leagues of working Americans of the period. They were the coins that I earned and spent. They were convenient to use and were popular with the public, and were minted until 1913, when its most famous and controversial issue was made.

The Liberty Head nickel is a series that is attractively designed, affordable, available, and historically significant. For these reasons it deserves the attention of Barber coinage specialists.



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As many of you know, "The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters" is out-of-print. As the author, I only have a few copies left and I have decided to use 10 of these to make a special leather-bound edition.

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BARBER COINS: OVER A 40 YEAR LOVE AFFAIR

By Tom Woodworth

Part I

How many years have you been interested in Barber coins? How did you get started? What experiences can you share with other BCCS members?

I was introduced to Barber coins 42 years ago, while living with my grandparents. My mother, who worked in another town as a waitress, received them as tips and brought them home for my grandfather. He called them "Right-About Face" coins. Not being a coin collector, he saved them in a cloth bag much like other people used a piggy bank, and eventually he turned them into the bank. When I was five years old, I remember my brother, Bob who was fourteen years old, looking at those well-worn, Right-about Face dimes, quarters, and half dollars. Occasionally, I was allowed to pick out a dime or quarter after he was done culling through them. One day, Bob came home with a couple of neat little blue folders to keep his coins in. As a result many of his coins had to be taped into their holes. I soon learned from the title on the fifteen cent Whitman coin books that my grandfather's Right-About Face coins were formally called Barber, Liberty Head, or "Morgan" coins.

By the fall of 1954, I had acquired my own Whitman coin books for my Barber coins and realized that due to wear from many years of use, my beautiful coins were actually too small for the holes. My enjoyment of collecting Barbers came to a bit of a standstill at this time for two major reasons. First, my brother left for college, thus ending our almost daily conversation about our collections. Second, my mother received very few Barbers as tips any longer.

The recollection of studying and admiring the Barbers I had at that time is still very clear in my memory. I recall one day in the Spring of 1955 when I decided to take my favorite quarters (1893-S and 1894-O) to school. I enjoyed showing them to my friends, and I put them out on my desk so I could look at them throughout the day. At the end of the day, they were wrapped carefully and separately in my handkerchief for safe keeping. As my friends and I walked and talked, we crossed a field on the way home and my nose began to run. Without thinking I pulled the handkerchief from my pocket and there was the immediate sound of a silver coin hitting a hard surface. The next few minutes were like a nightmare. The 1893-S quarter stuck to a piece of ice flowing in a large puddle of ice cold water, but the 1894-O quarter was gone. I plunged my hand into the frigid water and frantically searched the ground below, but to no avail. I even offered my friends a dollar if they could find the 1894-O quarter. After a few futile attempts, the search was halted. This incident taught me that coins that are collected and admired must be properly cared for and protected.

By 1955, my mother did not receive many "Right-About" Face coins as tips and since there were so few, my grandfather did not bother to save them any longer. I was content with the few coins I had.

My mother remarried in 1955 and I went to live with her and my step-father in 1957 when my grandfather's health began to fail. My step-father who had tended bar much of his life, had an extensive assortment of coins he had accumulated over the years, including many Barbers.

My excitement with Barber coins received a tremendous boost on a Saturday in October 1957. My mother presented me with an 1892-O dime in Fine condition that she had just received as a tip. It was the oldest and best condition Barber coin I had ever owned. How could a 65 year old dime look so good?

In my teen-age years my interest in coin collecting greatly increased. I began to read numismatic publications, visit coin shops, and attend coin shows. My step-father, my brother, and I began to buy coins, especially Barbers, for each other as birthday and Christmas gifts. We exchanged coin lists to make sure those purchased would actually fill a hole in our Whitman folders.

As I began to read and study more about Barber coins, I became aware of the possibility that my collection of dimes, quarters, and half dollars may never be complete due to the fact that some dates and mints were very rare and commanded a very high price.

In 1961 or 1962 my step-father acquired an 1892-S Barber half in Good condition at work. I thought to myself: How could he be so lucky? But was it luck or the fact that he got to look through so many coins every day as they passed in and out of the cash register at work?

My plan was set! I would buy rolls of coins from the bank and look through them, keeping out those which had a premium. The money made from selling these extra coins could be used to pay for those rare and expensive Barbers.

To be continued in Fall, 1992 Edition



We Need Your Articles!!!

The BCCS *Journal* needs your input! If you've got some information to share with the rest of the Society, we'd like to publish it. Please send submissions (handwritten, typed and/or on-diskette) to:

Steve Epstein
c/o BCCS Article Submissions
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Memphis, TN 38183-2246

BARBER HALF POPULATION SURVEY

Survey Coordinator: Len Ariagno

Our first Barber half dollar population survey features the eight rarest regular production dates, as determined by the results of the recent BCCS rarity ratings survey published in the Winter 1992 BCCS *Journal*. These dates all received R-4 or R-5 ratings in grades F/VF, as well as R-5 or R-6 ratings in XF/AU. The 1892-O "Micro-o" variety will not be treated separately in the future. This new survey is intended to show how many of these dates, in each grade, are owned by BCCS members. We can then compare these findings to the rarity ratings assigned by our members last year.

Please complete the survey form (which is stapled in the spine of this *Journal*) for all examples of the indicated dates you own. Provide your best estimation of the technical grades for the obverses and reverses, and include all certified grades, if applicable. Then place an "X" in each block which describes any problem(s) your coins may have. Additional blank spaces are provided below each date for duplicate examples. If you have more than two examples of any date, continue listing them separately at the bottom or the reverse side of the form, keeping the same order of the blocks to check.

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If you have Barbers you want to buy or sell and don't need a lot of space to do it, the *Classified Section* is for you.

WANTED: Barber Quarters: 1897-S and 1908-S, XF40. Must be original and problem-free. Chuck Sherwood, 9 South Eldorado St., Carrolltown, PA 15722, BCCS #411.

QUARTERS: 1896-S G-6 \$190., 1893-O AU-58 Great Luster \$180., 1900-O AU+ Orig. toning, Great Strike \$210., 1915-S AU-55 Great luster \$175., 1897-O VF-30 \$140. Ppd. Ron Kirkpatrick, 1004 E. 9th, Trenton, MO 64683.

BARBER QUARTERS: 1900-O VF-30+ \$52., 1905-O VG/F \$17, 1905-O F Cleaned \$25, 1907-S VF-30 \$38, 1909-O VF \$60, 1913-D VF \$25, add \$2 postage. John Wragg, P.O. Box 540186, Grand Prairie, TX 75054-0186.

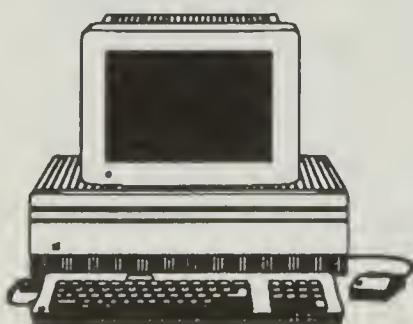
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ANA SHOW INFORMATION

The following is a letter from the F.U.N. Organization Addressed to Our Society:

Dear FUN Member Club,

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One of the highlights of this special event is the wonderful exhibit area. I would like for you to be involved by sharing your numismatic items with all who attend. Of special importance is Class 19 - Local Interest Numismatic Material. This is an exhibit classification for items of interest to the geographical area (Florida) in which the exhibit is being presented. I would like to see strong representation in this class, so start working with your special Florida items.

Also for 1992, there will be a non-competitive junior exhibit area. This is to encourage younger and first-time exhibitors. There are no rules for this class, and only a Peoples' Choice Award will be given.

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Signed, Cindy Grellman, Exhibit Chairperson



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WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES - OR DOES IT?

By David Lawrence

We have all wondered just how significant the population reports are. Do they represent most of the coins that exist? Or, are there still a lot more to come? And, are the relative scarcities likely to shift as more and more collections come out of the woodwork? Since I had the June 1991 and June 1992 PCGS Population Reports on my desk last week, I decided to see if an analysis of the change over one year would shed some light on these questions. It did.

The tables below show the total populations for all mint state coins combined as listed in these reports. The first thing of interest is that the changes are very slight, especially for scarcer dates. For Barber Dimes the total mint state coins certified increased by 421 coins, a change of 6.6% over the year before. For Barber Quarters this change was only 1.9% and for Barber Halves, 4.4%. Some of the scarce dates of the dimes and quarters actually decreased in number! Presumably this was because the labels of coins which had been cracked out were turned in. Look at the 1895-O Dime. In June 1991 there were a total of 14 coins listed, but only 12 a year later. Labels are turned in on scarce dates because it is in everyone's interest to have the populations be as low as possible (this supports high prices). For common dates, it's not that important to turn in your label and the 50 cent bounty PCGS pays isn't likely to make some people go through the trouble.

The second point of interest is that there has been a slight shift to higher grade coins, but not nearly as much as I would have expected. For example, the number of Barber Dimes graded MS65 increased 7.4% during the year and those graded MS66 by a whopping 17.1%. What does this tell us? My guess is that a number of MS64's were successfully upgraded to MS65 and MS65's to MS66! A look at the Barber Quarter grades tells the same thing. The number of MS64 grade quarters actually decreased 3.5% over the year, while the MS65's increased 1.6% and the MS66 by 8.9%!

So, what do we conclude? Unless a major hoard is discovered it looks like most of the scarce Barbers are already out. We can expect a trickle of better date coins over the next few years, but it's highly unlikely that the populations will as much as double, even over the next ten years! Hard to believe... there might actually be less than 15 uncleaned mint state 1904-S halves in existence!

Table 1. Total Number of Mint State Coins Certified by PCGS by Date

	June 1991	June 1992	
Dimes: <i>all dates</i>	<u>6412</u>	<u>6833</u>	+6.6%
1892-S	19	20	
1894-O	18	17	
1895-O	14	12	
1895-S	18	22	
1896-O	16	17	
1896-S	24	24	
1897-O	27	31	
1898-O	16	14	
1898-S	17	16	
1900-O	10	13	
1901-S	20	19	
1903-S	20	21	
1913-S	56	61	
1916-P	544	576	
 Quarters: <i>all dates</i>	<u>5944</u>	<u>6057</u>	+1.9%
1893-S	30	23	
1896-O	16	17	
1896-S	14	17	
1897-S	12	13	
1898-O	12	14	
1898-S	13	13	
1901-S	15	14	
1913-P	41	38	
1913-S	27	26	
1914-S	30	35	
1916-D	703	713	
 Halves: <i>All dates</i>	<u>3590</u>	<u>3748</u>	+4.4%
1893-S	16	16	
1896-O	10	11	
1897-S	23	19	
1898-O	22	22	
1904-S	8	8	
1907-S	19	19	
1914-P	44	43	
1915-D	164	172	

Table 2. The Number of Mint State Barbers Certified by PCGS by Grade.

	DIMES						
	<u>MS60</u>	<u>MS61</u>	<u>MS62</u>	<u>MS63</u>	<u>MS64</u>	<u>MS65</u>	<u>MS66</u>
June '91	134	316	1307	1890	1790	743	199
June '92	139	350	1412	2002	1859	798	233
% incr.	3.7	10.8	8.0	5.9	3.9	7.4	17.1
	QUARTERS						
	<u>MS60</u>	<u>MS61</u>	<u>MS62</u>	<u>MS63</u>	<u>MS64</u>	<u>MS65</u>	<u>MS66</u>
June '91	129	314	1234	1790	1589	704	157
June '92	137	328	1268	1878	1533	715	171
% incr.				4.9	-3.5	1.6	8.9
	HALVES						
	<u>MS60</u>	<u>MS61</u>	<u>MS62</u>	<u>MS63</u>	<u>MS64</u>	<u>MS65</u>	<u>MS66</u>
June '91	90	227	761	1130	919	357	81
June '92	95	250	819	1165	936	372	84



SOME RESPECT FOR BARBER QUARTERS:

David Lawrence actually likes them and has written a book on them.

By B. Michael Thorne

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HERE'S what Walter Breen (*Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*) has to say about Barber quarters: "The whole composition is Germanically stolid... and without discernible merit aside from the technical one of low relief."

Sandwiched between the Seated Liberty design that lasted for over half a century and the acclaimed Standing Liberty design, Barber quarters "don't get no respect," as Rodney Dangerfield would say.

But some people like Barber quarters, and one of the biggest fans is David Lawrence of Virginia Beach, Va. In fact, Lawrence has written the book on them — *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*.

Lawrence is originally from Brooklyn and started collecting coins there in the early 50s by looking at change from trolley cars and subways.

"In fact," he said, "I had some of the toll-booth operators in the subways put aside interesting coins for me when I used the subway every day to go to high school in Manhattan."

Barber coins could occasionally be found in circulation in the '50s, and they fascinated the young Lawrence.

"They showed a hint of being beautiful even in well-worn condition," he said.

Putting aside his coins, Lawrence went to Cornell University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. After a stint in the Navy, he went to graduate school at the University of Miami, eventually obtaining a master's and doctorate in fishery science and biological oceanography. He taught and did research on oceanography for about nine years at Old Dominion University in Virginia.

Lawrence's interest in coins was reawakened in the 1970s. He soon decided that his financial circumstances didn't permit him the luxury of collecting, so he became a dealer.

"I got intrigued by all the mall shows where the tables only cost \$10 to \$15 on a Sunday," he said, "and so I began to buy and sell part-time at the shows."

In the evenings Lawrence worked on a price list, officially starting his business in 1979. He doesn't maintain a shop, preferring instead to send out a monthly price list and travel to all the major shows. His specialty, of course, is Barbers.

The Barber Coin Collectors Society, of which Lawrence is member No. 2, has over 500 members, but not all of these are active Barber-quarter collectors.

"I would say at any given time there's got to be 200 or 300 serious collectors of Barber quarters," Lawrence said. "The problem is they fill the set, and then they go on to other things. Some of them may upgrade after that, but often they'll go to the dimes or the halves. The quarter set, because of the three keys, is not as popular as the dimes or the halves."

TO the uninitiated, the three key Barber quarters are the 1896-S, 1901-S and 1913-S. Of the three, the 1901-S and 1913-S are by far the rarest in the higher grades.

What do you do with the '01-S?" Lawrence asked. "If you want an XF/AU set, which is a popular grade for most collectors, the '01-S and '13-S are not only extremely expensive, they're not available.

"There really are not 200 or 300 of those coins. In fact, I estimated the number in my book as 20 to 40. So they're just not around, and often the collector ends up putting a VF or nice F in the set."

Although Lawrence likes Barber dimes, quarters and halves equally and is currently working on a handbook of Barber dimes, he decided to do the quarter book first "because when I was dealing there was never anything published about what you look for in a genuine '01-S or '96-S or '13-S."

"They are very heavily counterfeited," he said. "It's almost like a '16-D

dime, but not quite that bad. I figured at the very least I would be able to show people what a genuine coin looks like of those three dates. I felt that alone would be worth the price of the book."

In addition to revealing the characteristics of genuine Barber-quarter keys, Lawrence's book has value for the serious collector through the new varieties he reports.

"Basically, Breen did a very nice job in his encyclopedia," Lawrence said, "and it almost lists all the varieties known at the time. He's not perfect, but he's got 95 percent of the varieties that were known of Barber quarters and most other Barbers as well."

"I'm sure my book has a bunch of varieties that were not reported by Breen. It's not because they are rare; it's just because nobody really looked for them."

"The book really goes into mintmark positions. That's the second reason I did the quarter book first. The mintmark on Barber quarters shifts all over the place."

"A few years ago I was at a small show and a dealer from upstate New York had a '93-S quarter with a mintmark far to the right, which is one of the standard states. He put 'rare variety—mintmark in the wrong place' on the holder, and that kind of caught my eye. Here was a dealer who thought [the mintmark position] was rare when actually it was common for the date."

"I felt like I could bring that out and actually show that you could collect mintmarks in the various positions. My book heavily emphasizes the positions of the mintmarks, which are drawn under a microscope with a drawing tube to be exactly proportionate."

LAWRENCE considers the most interesting Barber-quarter varieties to be the repunched mintmarks of the 1892-S/S and the 1895-S/S.

"Those two in particular are very clear," he said. "There's nice separation, and no one puts a premium on them."

Don't expect to make a fortune cherrypicking dealers' inventories for unrecognized Barber-quarter varieties, however.

"None of the Barber varieties are currently bringing a significant premium," Lawrence said. "Part of this is because the album makers haven't put holes for these varieties. If there's no hole in the album [for a coin], very few people will collect it."

"The diligent collector, the cherrypicker, can find a lot of dates in the Barber-quarter series that are much tougher to find than people realize. A good example of this is the 1905-O. It's really tough to find in VG or higher."

"And the 1901-O. If you ask someone to rattle off the toughest five or seven

dates in the series, it wouldn't be one that they would call, but it's tough."

If some Barber quarter dates are much tougher to find in higher grades than you would expect from their mintages, is this reflected in the population reports published by the Numismatic Guaranty Corp. and Professional Coin Grading Service? Here's what Lawrence has to say:

"They're beginning to. The initial figures reflected what was first sent in, but I think with time they will accurately reflect [the true picture], and this will open our eyes as to which are the scarcest coins.

"For example, according to the latest population report, the scarcest mint state Barber quarter is the '97-S, and no one would have guessed it. In my book it was the '98-O.

"Also, because some people do resubmit coins, the high-grade coins, if they show one MS-65 and one MS-66, they could be the same coin. The population reports may not be accurate on the very high end, but they're probably reasonably accurate in the middle grades.

"When I first looked at population reports, I found that the peak was in the MS-63 and MS-64 grades. There are very low populations of MS-60 to MS-62.

"We all said in the beginning that that was because people didn't submit low grade uncirculated coins, but that's not the case. The case is simply that if the coin is uncirculated and hasn't been dipped or cleaned, then the service will probably grade it -63 or higher.

"In other words, a fresh, uncirculated coin will rarely grade lower than -63, so that most uncirculated Barbers really exist as -63s or -64s.

"The grading services set the standard for grading uncirculated coins, and they put a premium on freshness—coins that haven't been dipped out. An original roll of '16-D quarters came out about six months ago and brought a fortune, and the reason was that they all graded -65 or -66, with a few -64s.

"They all graded very high because they had super luster, and they were super fresh."

BUT most Barber-quarter collectors can't afford uncirculated coins, so a more meaningful question might be, "How difficult is it to put together a set grading fine to very fine?" Here's how the expert responds:

"If you want to pay market price and not overpay, unless you're lucky, you're not going to get a '01-S for a long time. It'll take six months to a year to find a nice '13-S, but it definitely could take several years to find a '01-S unless you're willing to pay \$200 or \$300 over what anybody else will pay.

"It's the only way you can kind of jump the line. In the last few months I have had multiple calls for a '01-S in F or VF.

"I had a strange situation in St. Louis recently, where I bought a complete set and the '01-S graded about VF. Of course, I have lots of customers for the coin. But J. Cline [noted Standing Liberty quarter expert] had a customer for it and he wanted to buy it. He actually paid me \$100 over my retail price, and then he subsequently sold it. So he jumped the line by paying a premium."

"Suppose someone lives in a medium-sized to large city, and he's willing to go to the coin shops in that city and to the local shows. It'll take him three years, and then he still has to worry about the '01 -S."

"But if he goes by advertisements in the coin papers and magazines and is willing to go nationally, he can speed up the process, depending on how much money he has right away. There still will be some dates that will take a few years to get unless he's lucky."

One of those dates that may take a few years to find in grade fine is the 1897-S.

"I haven't seen one in a long time," Lawrence said. "That's a coin that maybe is \$30, but you can't find it."

OTHER than to have patience, what advice would David Lawrence offer a collector starting to assemble a Barber quarter set?

"First, he should figure out the amount of money he can afford monthly, and he should start with the highest grade he can afford," Lawrence said. "For example, if he can afford \$50-\$75 a month, he could try to put together a nice VF-XF set. If he can afford only about \$30 a month, he better think about a VF set."

"Then, I would say he should find the tougher coins first, but if he looks around one month and can't find a tough one, then he could buy a common one that month. Some people occasionally tell me they're going to get the tough ones first, and then they'll get the common ones."

"On the common ones, you can be pretty fussy about condition. On the tough ones, you're going to have to take what's available."

What is the future like for Barber quarter collecting?

"Very strong," according to Lawrence. "The demand exceeds supply for most of the mid-grades like F, VF, XF, AU, for many of the dates in the set."

"Our population is increasing, our affluent society is increasing, and more and more people can put a set together if they want to. Remember, we're all chasing a very limited number of coins."

"While I don't tout an XF coin as an investment grade, they probably will be very good long-term investments."



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